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PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS.

GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments, Patrick-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, May 3rd, 1854,

JOSEPH BURKE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law,
in the Chair.

Present, the following members :—

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| William Atkinson, Esq., C. E. | T. E. Murphy, Esq. |
| The Rev. John Browne, LL. D. | The Rev. J. M. Pearson, A. M. |
| Henry P. Clarke, Esq. | J. R. Phayer, Esq. |
| Robert Curtis, Esq., R. M. | John G. A. Prim, Esq. |
| The Rev. John L. Drapes, A. M. | James G. Robertson, Esq., Ar- |
| The Rev. James Graves, A. B. | chitect. |
| John James, Esq., L. R. C. S. I. | B. Scott, Jun., Esq., Solicitor. |
| Edward Lane, Esq. | James St. John, Esq., LL. D. |
| John Maher, Esq., Solicitor. | Patrick Watters, Esq. |

The following new members were elected :—

Loftus H. Bland, Esq., Q. C., M. P. for the King's County : proposed by John P. Prendergast, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Mrs. W. Lloyd Flood, Farmley ; John Lentaigne, Esq., M. D., M. R. I. A., D. L., J. P., Tallaght House, Dublin ; John Power, Esq., J. P., St. John's-place, Kilkenny ; Henry P. Clarke, Esq., Inspector of National Schools, William-street, Kilkenny ; Richard James Bell, Esq., 17, Bedford-street, Covent Garden, London ; James Carruthers, Esq., 4, Glenfield-place, Belfast ; and Simon Morris, Esq., Kilkenny : proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Kenny Purcell, Esq., Clerk of the Peace, Kilkenny : proposed by B. Scott, Jun., Esq., Solicitor.

Abraham Alcock, Esq., M. D., New Ross : proposed by the Rev. P. Moore, R. C. C., Rosbercon.

Thomas P. T. Bookey, Esq., Doninga, Goresbridge ; Edward Lewis Warren, Esq., Lodge Park, Freshford ; John Le Poer Bookey, Esq., Ballyragget ; Messrs. Thomas Seigne, Kilfane Cottage, Thomastown ; Cornelius Maxwell, Parade, Kilkenny ; Michael Shortall, Solicitor, King-street, Kilkenny ; William Lawless, Rose-Inn-street, Kilkenny ; William Nicholson, High-street, Kil-

kenny ; John Hogan, Rose-Inn-street, Kilkenny ; and Patrick Mansfield Delany, High-street, Kilkenny : proposed by Mr. John G. A. Prim.

Messrs. William Manyfold Higginbotham, Gorey ; John Kennedy, Enniscorthy ; John P. Pilsworth, Athy ; John Fergus MacCartan, Thomastown ; and Patrick Buggy, Castlecomer : proposed by Joseph Burke, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

William H. Woods, Esq., Stapleton-place, Stapleton-road, Bristol : proposed by Thomas Kerslake, Esq.

The Very Rev. John Spratt, D.D., Aungier-street, Dublin : proposed by Dr. O'Brennan.

The Rev. P. J. Gilligan, 99, James'-street, Dublin : proposed by Mr. John O'Daly, Dublin.

William Lane Joynt, Esq., Alderman of Limerick : proposed by Mr. Michael Kearney.

Mr. John Campion, Patrick-street, Kilkenny : proposed by Mr. J. G. Robertson.

Mr. Thomas Dunphy, King-street, Kilkenny : proposed by Mr. P. Blanchfield, Clifden.

Mr. Graves observed that this list of new members, thirty-one in number, was only exceeded at one previous Meeting of the Society, when over forty names were added to their list.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors :—

By Robert MacAdam, Esq., Belfast : “The Ulster Journal of Archæology,” No. 6.

By the Council of the Dublin Geological Society : its “Journal,” Vol. VI. part 1.

By the Author, Richard Hitchcock : “Dingle in the Sixteenth Century, with an Introduction and Notes.”

By the Council of the Cambrian Archæological Association : “Archæologia Cambrensis,” new series, No. 17.

By the Publisher : “The Builder,” Nos. 580 to 586, both inclusive.

By Richard Johnston, Esq., Architect, 93, Leinster-road, Dublin : a series of very beautiful drawings (made to scale) of the details of Jerpoint Abbey, accompanied by a view of the east end of that building as it appeared before the late repairs were executed. As it is the intention of the Secretaries shortly to draw up a brief historical and architectural account of this abbey, Mr. Johnston's gift is a most desirable one, and will greatly facilitate the illustration of those portions of the structure still remaining.

By James Carruthers, Esq. : elaborate drawings, full-sized and coloured, of two bronze trumpets and a gigantic spear-head, the largest ever discovered in Ireland ; also lithographs of bronze and silver fibulæ, all of which are in his museum.

By Patrick Watters, Esq., Town Clerk, Kilkenny : a bill of the Kilkenny Amateurs' plays, being for the second night of the season, September 23rd, 1818 ; also a supplement to "Faulkner's Dublin Journal," of October 5th, 1798, giving the despatch announcing the victory of the Nile.

By Mr. Arthur Mosse : a musket found in the bed of the Nore, at Kilkenny College, covered with a concrete formed from the oxydation of the barrel combined with the sand and gravel of the river's bed. The musket appeared to be about fifty years old, and was inscribed with the letters M. K. on the heel-plate.

By Robert Curtis, Esq. : a very good specimen of the penny token struck by John Beavor, Kilkenny, in the seventeenth century, found near Kilkenny.

By Mr. John Campion : a nearly perfect specimen of the rare penny token of Richard Inwood, Kilkenny, turned up in the garden of the donor.

By Mr. William Lawless : a specimen of the penny token of James Purcell, Irishtown.

By J. Burke, Esq., Barrister-at-Law : a very fine specimen of the brass shilling of James II., September, 1689.

By Mr. John Fennessy, Kilkenny : a six-pence of Queen Elizabeth, 1574.

By the Rev. James Graves : several ancient silver, copper, and brass coins, amongst which were a specimen of the copper Confederate money, a Patrick's half-penny, a jetton, a silver penny of Henry III. struck in Dublin, a London penny of Edward I., two Kilkenny tokens, being those of Roth and Inwood, and a counterfeit shilling of Queen Anne, all of which were found in Kilkenny ; also an ancient Scotch copper coin, found in Jerpoint Abbey ; and a small silver casting, of some antiquity, representing the Virgin and Child, and bearing the inscription, "de sancto carmelo."

By Mr. P. M. Delany : a silver three-pence of George III.

By Mr. E. Lane : three small modern silver coins, of France, America, and Spain.

By the Rev. J. M. Pearson : a stone tomahawk, found in making a sewer in the village of Delawar, twelve miles from London, Canada West ; resembling in every respect the stone celts so frequently found in Ireland.

By Mr. William Lawless : the matrix of an exceedingly interesting personal seal, apparently of the thirteenth century, found in digging a field near the Workhouse of the Kilkenny Union.

Mr. Prim, in presenting this seal on behalf of Mr. Lawless, observed that the material was brass, which had been gilt. It bore an escutcheon, charged with a lion rampant, and round the verge the following legend, in Lombardic characters :—s : THOME : FL : HENRICH : DE : ROS :—the seal of Thomas the son of Henry de

Ros. It would appear that this Thomas de Ros had been a monk of St. John's Abbey (not far from the site of which the seal had been found), as, on consulting the Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery, he found, by an enrolment made on the Patent Roll of the 3rd and 4th Edward II., No. 39, that on the 27th of October, 1288, "Brother Robert, prior of the Monastery of St. John, Kilkenny, being worn out with age, appointed, as his attornies, brother Richard le Whyte and Thomas de Ros." The Society was deeply indebted to Mr. Lawless for preserving this interesting relic for them; and this being but one of many donations which that gentleman had made to their Museum, he was well entitled to a special vote of thanks.

A letter from Mr. Richard Hitchcock was read, making the following suggestion:—

"The Kilkenny Archæological Society is now more than five years in existence, and, judging from the lists of donations and purchases which have been from time to time published, I think it cannot but possess by this time a pretty extensive Museum and Library. Well acquainted as I am with the affairs of the Society, I believe I may speak on behalf of the majority of its members and say that we know very little of what the Library and Museum now contain. It has therefore occurred to me that a catalogue of one or both of these would not only be most acceptable to the members of the Society, particularly those who are non-resident in Kilkenny, but that in fact it would be most useful, and would materially tend to increase the value of both the Museum and Library. From the interest in the working of the Kilkenny Archæological Society which I believe exists amongst all its members, I feel confident that the expense attendant on the bringing out of such a catalogue would be very soon repaid. At all events, I embrace this opportunity of mentioning the matter, and hope it may be considered worth bringing under the notice of the next meeting."

The Chairman observed that Mr. Hitchcock's communication was worthy of every attention; and on his suggestion it was referred to the Committee.

The Secretaries laid on the table the printed Proceedings and Transactions of the March Meeting of the Society, now ready for delivery, and forming the second fasciculus of the Part for 1854.

Mr. Graves called attention to the series of very beautiful tinted lithographs which were exhibited. They formed the illustrations, six in number, of the second part of Mr. Henry O'Neill's great and truly national work, "The Ancient Crosses of Ireland." Of these, three belonged to Kilkenny,—the west side of the north cross of Kilkispeen; a separate plate of the details of the two crosses in that locality; and a plate of the three crosses of Ullard (two of which are now at Graigue-na-managh) grouped together by the artist. The part also comprised a most accurate delineation of St. Boyne's

cross, at Monasterboice, with its wonderful profusion of sculpture and ornament; and two plates of the great Tuam cross, which most people would recollect as having stood near the entrance of the Great Exhibition of 1853. The exertions and self-devotion of the artist were above all praise, and had been fully successful in doing justice to the arduous subject. The Kilkenny Archæological Society might well be proud of having given the first impulse to this work, which, however, deserved a far greater amount of local support than it had yet received.

The Secretary read a letter from Henry Stevens, Esq., agent in England for the Smithsonian Institution, acknowledging the donation of the Society's Transactions for 1852, and promising to do all in his power to procure in exchange the valuable publications of the Institution.

A letter was read from Charles C. Babington, Esq., Treasurer of the Cambridge Archæological Society, and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, stating that he had found amongst the documents of that University ancient transcripts of three deeds, which might interest the Society. They were:—

1. The sale of all the lands belonging to the Prior and Convent of the Cathedral Church of Canterbury, which were situated in Ireland, to the Abbot and Convent “de Voto” (Tintern, county of Wexford) of the Cistercian Order, in the diocese of Ferns, A. D. 1245.

2. Agreement by the Abbot and Convent de Voto to pay annually ten marks to the Convent of Canterbury, A. D. 1245.

3. Agreement by the same to pay three marks to the same, A. D. 1255.

They are contained, Mr. Babington stated, in the “*Registrum vetus cartarum et aliarum literarum patentium et clausarum Conventus tempore Henrici Prioris [ecclesiæ Christi Cantuariensis]*.” He expressed his willingness to procure transcripts of these documents for the Society.

The Rev. P. Moore communicated the following curious traditional matter, connected with the ancient family of De Freigne, of Ballyreddy, barony of Ida, and bearing on the continuance of feudal power to a late period in the county of Kilkenny:—

“The family of De Freigne were, as is well known, the old feudal proprietors of the greater part of the barony of Ida. So late as the commencement of the eighteenth century they were accustomed to regulate the dress of the people at their own will and pleasure; De Freigne, at the chapel of Tullagher, cutting off the long hair of the men, and regulating the fashion of their coats and breeches, whilst the ladies of the family carried out their sumptuary laws with regard to the women's caps and gowns, pulling the former off their heads if they appeared to be too modish. The De Freigne, who lived in Brownstown about the year 1700, lost his feudal power by allowing himself to be bearded by a subordinate. About that

time a man called Ned-gerr, or short Ned, came to reside on that townland, having married the daughter of an old resident. He did not know De Freigne or his ways, and when summoned by the horse-boy of the latter to ferry his master across the Nore, he steadily refused. On the next Sunday, when coming from mass at Tullagher, De Freigne attempted to ride down Ned-gerr, but the latter resisted and knocked De Freigne down. Everybody thought that the unlucky Ned would have been hanged, but instead of that De Freigne sent for him next day and gave him his farm rent free; but after that, all kicked against De Freigne and despised his power. Every one has the story, and it appears not to have taken place before 1700 or 1715: it is curious how long they continued to maintain the feudal right of life and death. I have heard of a *caoine* that was made for the first De Freigne who went to Dublin (about 1745 or 1750); he was brought to be buried in Ballyneal, drawn by six horses. His nurse met him in Ballyneal, and composed a beautiful Irish elegy, elegant in rhyme and reason too. The translation of a part of it runs thus—‘Thou art welcome home in thy coffin of shining plates. What can I say regarding thee not calculated to awaken sorrow in the hearts of thy young kinsfolk? Are not the stately homes of thy family hurled to the earth and converted into a play-ground for the youth of the neighbourhood?’”

Dr. Aquilla Smith, Dublin, contributed the following curious extracts from the MS. Diary of Joshua Wight, a Quaker:—

“May 18th, 1752.—This day about noon, there was a great sight of people passed through the streets of Limerick. Many thousands in a large body. The country labourers, cottiers and husbandmen erected a new system of Husbandry, and country affairs; great companies of distinction in the several degrees of Agriculture, common labourers walking first, the men in their shirts, in ranks; the women also with green corn and straw; the plow driven along, and the harrow; the mowers with their scythes, the reapers, the gleaners (a great number of women), and a great number with their flails walking in a great procession, to congratulate the probability of a good ensuing harvest. This show was allowed by most of the spectators to be far more entertaining than the companies of the several corporations in their greatest figure. These country people made a second appearance the next day, at which time the county [*sic*] of Clare and Limerick joyned together and were [*sic*] very particular in their representations of personating the several orders of husbandry in all the branches of it.

“24th May, 1752.—The Prince of Wales’ birth day. The troops at Limerick lined the town walls, and proceeded to hedge-firing, the great guns also all round firing.”

Mr. R. Hitchcock communicated letters from Thomas L. Cooke, Esq., and the Rev. A. B. Rowan, D. D., relative to the reading of one of the inscriptions (No. 3) given in his “Gleanings from Country Church-yards,” in the Transactions of the Society for 1852. Mr. Cooke, it appears, possesses a copy of the inscription, in which the first line consists of the contracted letters v. m. r. c., and which he accordingly reads, VIRGO MARIA REGINA CÆLI. The remainder of the inscription he reads, PH. (i. e. Philippus) DINIGHAN, 1666, ECIAM UXOR HIC JACENT; and he mentions one of the Commonwealth

or Restoration merchant's tokens for 1^d, struck in Parsonstown by a person named Jeffes, on which the letters are curiously run into each other in the same monogrammic style as in the Rattoo inscription above referred to. Dr. Rowan, on the other hand, refers to two or three copies of the Rattoo inscription in his possession, made by himself and others; and all these seem to differ from Mr. Cooke's reading. Dr. Rowan mentions a small *t* at the end of the first line in his own copy, which would seem to settle the name MARGARET. He also ingeniously supposes the husband, mentioned in the inscription, to have been buried first, and the contracted words reading IO . DINIGHAN, 1666, then engraved on the stone; that his wife was subsequently buried, and the words which read, MARGARET EJUS UXOR HIC JACET, were then added. The position of the words on the stone makes this point clear, as also that the *E*, with a contraction like a figure of 9 attached, clearly makes EJUS and not ECIAM. Dr. Rowan further states, that in many hundreds of monumental inscriptions which he has seen, he never saw the initials of VIRGO MARIA REGINA CÆLI so used.

Mr. Graves said that he wished to draw attention to an archaeological discovery of some interest lately made in Kilkenny. Mr. John Feehan being at present engaged in remodelling the house in High-street, lately occupied by Mr. Buggy, for the purpose of converting it into a West of England Cloth Hall, it became, in the course of the work, quite evident that the house had originally been of much antiquity. Pointed-arch doorways, stone-cased and flat-headed windows of cut stone, massive oak timber floors and roofs, were ample evidences of this; however, still further proof was afforded by the discovery, on the first floor, of an elaborately carved stone chimney-piece, surmounted by an armorial achievement, also cut in stone. He exhibited a rubbing of the slab containing the armorial bearings: it bore the arms of the ancient family of Shee, being the coats granted to that family in 1582, as would appear by the following extract from an ancient heraldic MS. in his possession:—

“Shee of Com. Kilkenny bears 8 Coats quarterly. 1st and 5th per bend indented or and azure 2 Flordelis's counterchang'd. 2nd is gules 3 Swords fessways the middlemost pointing towards y^e Dexter Side all proper. 3rd Sable 3 Pheons argent. 4th Gules 3 Swords 2 in saltier pointing downwards and one in pale pointed upwards. 6th Argent 3 Bars gules over all a Bend sable. 7th Per Pale Indented or and gules. The 8th and last argent a Chevron between 3 Pheons sable.—By Robert Cook, Clarencieux King at Arms, 7th August, 1582, 24th Elizabeth.”

Beneath the shield appeared at each side the letters E. S., probably for Elias Shee, brother of Sir Richard Shee, Knight, of Upper Court. Beneath all, the slab bore the motto in old French, *DEU DONEST*, God gives, most likely one of those simple pious sentences such as were usually inscribed on houses in the olden time. There

was no date on the chimney-piece; but the style of the workmanship would certainly refer it to about the year 1600, when most of the old houses still remaining in Kilkenny were built. It was too much the habit, when remains such as he had been describing were discovered, to treat them with little reverence; and, if not ruthlessly to destroy them, at least to cover them up again: but he was happy to say, that Mr. Feehan intended to sacrifice a portion of the most important space in his establishment, with a view of leaving this antique and curious chimney-piece intact; nay more, he intended to get it cleaned and restored as much as possible to its original state,—an act in which he trusted that Mr. Feehan would find many imitators.

The following communication was received from William Hackett, Esq., Middleton:—

“Having at the last meeting of the Society brought under notice the subject of ‘Giants’ Cinders,’ apparently not without exciting some interest on the part of the members, I may, perhaps, be now permitted to direct attention to another class of remains which I believe are very numerous, but hitherto unnoticed, from their apparent insignificance. I allude to the subterranean sewer-like passages, constructed of dry stones, which are frequently met with in fields where there is no vestige of building or appearance of any work with which they could have been ever connected. My own attention was first drawn to the subject by an exploration in which I was concerned, at a place called Woodstock, not far from Middleton, many years since. The peasantry of the district had a tradition that a passage led a considerable distance underground to an open space, where at present is a pool embosomed in a crescent of burned stones of the ‘Giants’ Cinders’ class. This passage the people described as ‘a big avenue,’ high enough for a tall man to stand up in, and broad enough for six to walk abreast in. Some friends and I resolved to test the truth of this traditional statement, and proceeded to the spot with labourers provided with the materials for making the exploration. We were accompanied by certain old inhabitants of the locality, who held with each other a comparison of legendary notes as to the proper spot to commence the delving, and this consultation eventuated in their agreeing on one particular place. They had no depression or elevation of the ground or other mark or bearing to guide them, and when we had removed the surface we found so little appearance of the next stratum having being ever disturbed, that we doubted much the accuracy of our sages. However, having dug to a depth of about five feet, we came upon some small horizontal stones laid north and south. We cleared the earth from them to a distance of about six feet in length, and found that they were covering stones, which were sustained on either side by small stones laid on edge, and presenting the appearance of a common drain, except that a circular enlargement was found, and the drain continued from thence about six feet more to a second enlargement of a similar kind, from which the drain stretched on about three feet, and appeared as if it had been there broken up at some remote period. This was at the north end, and the same feature presented itself at the south. We had now made a trench not two feet broad at bottom, and about twenty feet in length. On removing the covering stones of

the drain, we found nothing but soot and ashes; but in the enlarged spaces were animal teeth, sea shells, charcoal, and soot.

"Here, certainly, was no avenue large enough for six tall men to walk abreast in without stooping, but yet it was evident that the tradition of the locality was not without foundation. The passage was really less than a foot in height and a foot broad, with enlargements of two feet in diameter, but no higher than the passage itself. But the question was—what could be the object of this obscure and trifling work? It was not a drain, and was not in any way sepulchral. For years, during which I heard of many similar discoveries having been made, I pondered over the matter from time to time, and at length came to a conclusion that some may consider strange and far-fetched, although I trust that many will see some reason for it. I believe it was a boundary between two properties! After all the Hindoo coincidences which Irish antiquarian investigation has brought to light, I am constantly looking for new ones, and in the course of my reading I have recently met with an old Gentoo law, made to obviate the crime of encroaching on landmarks, which I think throws some light on the intention of the Woodstock souterrain: it is as follows:—

"Dust, or bones, or seeboos (bran), or cinders, or scraps of earthenware, or the hairs of a cow's tail, or the seed of the cotton plant; all these things above mentioned being put into an earthen pot filled to the brim, a man must *privately bury upon the confines of his own boundary*, and there preserve also stones, or bricks, or sea sand. Either of these three things may be buried by way of landmark of the limits; *for all these things upon remaining a long time in the ground are not liable to rot, or become putrid*; any other thing, also, which will remain a long time in the ground without becoming putrid may be buried for the same purpose.

"Those persons who by any of these methods *can show the line of their boundaries*, shall acquaint their sons of the respective landmarks of those boundaries; and in the same manner those sons also shall explain the signs of their limits to their children. If all persons would act in this manner there could be no disputes concerning limits and boundaries.'—Taylor's 'Calmet,' 5th edition, vol. viii., Fragments, lxxx., p. 138.

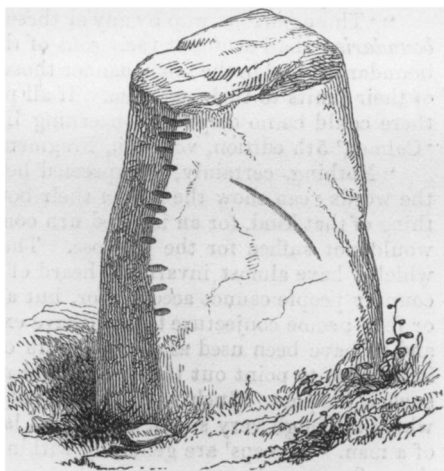
"Nothing, certainly, is expressed here of a continuous passage, but the words 'can show the line of their boundaries' evidently imply something of that kind, for an isolated urn containing dust, bones, or charcoal, would not suffice for the purpose. These narrow, drain-like passages, which I have almost invariably heard of containing charcoal or soot, the country people cannot account for, but always associate them with raths or forts; some conjecture them to have extended from one rath to another, and to have been used as conveyancers of sound in case of alarm; but it is needless to point out that they could not possibly have been applied to such a purpose. Such passages are not to be confounded with 'creeps,' which although very small, are always large enough to admit the passage of a man. 'Creeps' are generally within forts, leading to and connecting the underground apartments. I have seen them in open fields, but there were always traces of erased forts to be discerned over them. I have no doubt that many of the baked clay urns, containing charcoal, which are so frequently met with, and which have been hitherto supposed to have been sepulchral, were in reality hidden boundary witnesses, such as are alluded to in the Indian law of limits which I have cited. But whether my con-

jectures be correct or otherwise, I trust I may be considered to have opened a subject for interesting inquiry amongst the members of the Society."

Mr. Prim stated, that in many parts of the county of Kilkenny the peasantry had related to him the existence of such passages as those described by Mr. Hackett. They called them "drains," and said they ran in connexion with raths, and always contained charcoal and bones of animals. From the descriptions given, he had ascertained that most of them could not be sewerage drains, as they ran from the raths to more elevated ground, and the presence of the charcoal and bones had always puzzled him. He considered Mr. Hackett's communication really afforded a most curious and interesting ground for inquiry.

Mr. Graves observed, with reference to the curious Gentoo law supplied by Mr. Hackett, that it presented a striking resemblance to some extracts from the Brehon laws of Ireland which he had heard read by Dr. Graves at a late meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, and which bore on the subject of ancient boundaries. It would be curious to ascertain if Oghams were ever found buried in such souterrains as those described by Mr. Hackett.

Mr. Prim exhibited a rubbing from the Ogham monument existing in the burial-ground of Tullaherin, barony of Gowran, and county of Kilkenny, the discovery of which he had first announced at the March Meeting of 1852 (see "Transactions," vol. ii. p. 190). He had since made an examination of the place, in company with the Rev. James Graves, to whose pencil the Society was indebted for the sketch, after which the accompanying engraving had been made by Mr. Geo. A. Hanlon. The present height of the stone was about two feet four inches, but a considerable portion had evidently been broken off the top, and the inscription was thus defective; the width averaged one foot six inches, and the thickness of the slab



Ogham Stone at Tullaherin.

was nine inches. The material was a hard grit, which is not to be found nearer than four or five miles from Tullaherin. The neighbouring Round Tower is largely composed of that kind of stone, whilst

there is no appearance of it in the ruins of the old church, about three feet of the lower part of the walls of which exhibit masonry of a very early date, much anterior to the upper portions of the structure, but all composed of lime-stone. The Ogham stone stood at the distance of a foot from the south wall of the church, and nine paces from the Round Tower, and had the appearance of a rude head-stone to a grave. The inscription was on the south-eastern edge, and consisted of eleven scores. In the centre of the eastern face there was a single stroke, deeply scored, nine inches long, and running in a diagonal direction, which appeared to be of a date more modern than the Ogham. A few fragments of coffin-shaped tombs, bearing floriated crosses, were to be found in the church and burying-ground, appropriated to mark the modern graves; but there was no appearance of any other monument of such remote antiquity as that inscribed with the Ogham. The church being dedicated to St. Kieran, the name, Tullaherin, was generally supposed to signify the height of Kieran; but it was sometimes pronounced and spelled Tullaherim, which would mean the dry hill, a term certainly descriptive of its peculiar situation, it being elevated ground nearly surrounded by a marsh.

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

ON TULACHS AS PLACES OF SEPULTURE.

BY MR. JOHN O'DALY.

IN the communication made by Mr. Prim to the Society, with reference to the newly discovered Ogham monument at Tullaherin, that gentleman stated it to be the general impression that the name signified "the hill of Kieran," that saint being the patron of the parish;¹ whilst some considered that it meant "the dry hill." I now beg leave to intimate, that, in my opinion, the word, tulach, signifies a burial-place, and that the original name, which has been corrupted into Tullaherin, literally meant the burial-place dedicated to St. Kieran (*Hibernicè*, *Ùapán*) of Ossory, or founded by him. As it is a matter of much interest and importance that the origin of the Irish names of districts and places should be properly traced and elucidated, and that nothing should be left depending on mere assertion, I now proceed to produce proofs that the Irish word *tulac* means, beyond the possibility of doubt, a place of sepulture, and was understood in that sense by the ancient Irish.

¹ I have prepared for publication, from an ancient Irish manuscript, the Life of St. Kieran, of Saighir, in which

his connexion with the inhabitants of ancient and modern Ossory is very fully set forth.